BUSINESS ACTIVITIES NET INDIANS $1 MILLION LAST YEAR

Ute Indians on the Uintah-Ouray Reservation, inching toward economic independence, took in more than $1,000,000 last year in a wide range of business activities.

The Indians, organized into a corporation are in a large measure independent of the U. S Indian Bureau. About half of their income came from raising cattle and sheep, trapping beaver, cutting mine props, and leasing scattered tracts. The other chunk came from rentals and royalties paid by oil companies drilling on the million-acre reservation.

Government handouts are not great in number for these Indians. Only about 200 of the 1588 tribesmen are getting welfare aid, and according to reports about two-thirds of these are aged and blind. Indians or dependent children being helped by the state. The others are widows, sick, lame and crippled persons and others temporarily incapacitated being helped by the tribe's own funds.

Reginald O. Curry, tribal business chairman, says there is rich and poor among his people just as there is in any segment of the nation's population. A few have bank accounts that never drop below $30,000. Some are living with little food and clothing.

Carl J. Harrison, field supervisor for the Utah Department of Public Welfare, after an exhaustive horseback study of the Utes, prompted by reports of unrest last spring, said there was no evidence to support the statement that there was serious need for food and clothing.

Judgment

Tribal business leaders are determined to take "plenty" of time spending the $30,500,000 judgment they and their fellow kinsmen won in Colorado recently against the federal government, even though some of the older Indians are clamoring for the cash.

The judgment is just so many words on paper until Congress appropriates money to cover the award. Hard-headed, college trained tribal business leaders are being careful not "to go out on a limb" on the strength of the award—at least not until they see the "color" of the money.

Even if the Indians are given funds to cover the award, statutes provide that judgment money be deposited in the U. S. Treasury to the Indian's account, drawing four per cent interest, and that it be spent then only by Congressional action.

John S. Boyden, Salt Lake City attorney and tribal counsel, who has been an interest in Indian affairs for the past two decades, says the chances are Congress will apportion the money out a piece at a time for specific projects, that even individual allotments of "per capita" payments will be strung out over a period of several years.